

The following message was received from His Excellency the Governor, which was read, and on motion of Senator Gaines, referred to a select committee, viz.: Senators Gaines, Hall and Shelley:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, STATE OF TEXAS, }  
AUSTIN, May 31, 1873. }

*Hon. E. B. Pickett, President of the Senate of the State of Texas:*

SIR: I return to the Senate, where it originated, the act entitled "An act to provide for the ascertainment and payment of the liabilities of the county of Washington."

This act assumes to organize, for certain purposes, within the county of Washington, a tribunal which is not known to the Constitution of the State, and not in accord with either its spirit or letter. It gives this tribunal very extensive authority touching certain property of citizens of the county, which may be used not only to damage the rights of those citizens, but to affect their character. The act is manifestly dangerous, and should not become a law. The regularly constituted courts of the county are in their powers amply sufficient to reach all the cases of improper conduct on the part of officers. In fact, with the aid of the grand and petit juries of the county, they are just as likely to right every wrong imaginable, without fear, favor or prejudice, as are the individuals mentioned in this act.

I might also notice the expense of this tribunal, which, without counting the clerk hire and other incidental expenses, will be fifteen dollars a day for an indefinite period. Clearly the finances of the county of Washington will not be benefitted by its establishment.

Very respectfully,

EDMUND J. DAVIS, Governor.